

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6, under 35 USC §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by JP '113 (JP 63-85113).

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended for form and clarity and new claims 6-7 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-7 are currently presented for examination, of which claims 1 and 4 are independent. Support for the instant amendments is provided throughout the Specification.

Applicant traverses the §102(b) rejections for the following reasons:

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

As noted above, independent claim 1 positively recites, *inter alia*, a spherical body with a through-hole wherein the through-hole is formed by connecting through a first hole and a second hole that are drilled toward the center of the spherical body, respectively from right-left symmetrical positions in the upper half section of the spherical body . . . and ***a curved surface is formed by cutting off the vertex section of the included angle formed in the spherical body by the first hole and the second hole comprise respective opening sections with enlarged diameters.***

These features are amply supported and described by the embodiments disclosed throughout the written description. By way of illustration, the disclosed embodiments provide a configuration in which the first and second holes have opening sections with enlarged diameters. (See, Specification: page 9, lines 1-17; FIG. 2). In this manner, the vertex section cutting is substantially simplified.

Moreover, the embodiments provide that reinforcing members are fixed to the enlarged diameters. (See, Specification: page 10, lines 1-8; FIG. 2).

With this said, Applicant submits that the asserted reference fails to suggest each and every element of claim 1 including, for example, the claim features noted above. To be clear and to the point, as best understood, JP '113 does not suggest a configuration in which *a curved surface is formed by cutting off the vertex section of the included angle formed in the spherical body by the first hole and the second hole comprise respective opening sections with enlarged diameters*, as required by claim 1.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the asserted references. And, because claim 6 depends from claim 1, claim 6 is patentable at least by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations.

In addition, because independent claim 4 recites similar patentable features as claim 1, claim 4 is patentable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. And, because claims 5 and 7 depend from claim 4, claims 5 and 7 are patentable at least by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations.

Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the §102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Date: September 18, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

By:



E. Rico Hernandez
Registration No. 47,641

Customer No. 00909

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102
Main: 703-770-7900
Direct Dial: 703-770-7788
Fax: 703-770-7901